



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/864,456	05/25/2001	Toshihiko Kaku	Q64549	1775
7590	03/30/2004		EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20037-3213			CHANNAVAJALA, SRIRAMA T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2177	10
DATE MAILED: 03/30/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/864,456	Applicant(s) KAKU, TOSHIHIKO
	Examiner Srirama Channavajjala	Art Unit 2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2004.  
2a)  This action is FINAL.                  2b)  This action is non-final.  
3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-86 is/are pending in the application.  
    4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-86 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## **Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All b) Some \* c) None of:  
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date . . .  
  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: . . .

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. Examine acknowledges applicant's amendment filed on 3/5/2004, paper no .9
2. Claims 1,5,11,17,27,43,65,78 have been amended, paper no. # 9
3. Claims 79-86 have been added, paper no. # 9.
4. Claims 1-86 are pending in this application.

***Drawings***

5. The drawings filed on 8/4/2002 are approved by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152.

***Priority***

6. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) based upon an application [SI.No.# 2000-201548] filed in Japan on 7/3/2000.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the

requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

8. Claims 1-14,16,20-2124-25,32,37-38,40,44-51,53-54, 57,60-61, 64-65,67,72,74,76, 78-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a &e) as being anticipated by Mayle et al.,[hereafter Mayle], US Patent No. 6018774.

9. As to Claims 1,43,78, Mayle teaches a system which including 'an image distributing system for distributing an image having a target character' [see Abstract, fig 1], image distributing system corresponds to Mayle's fig 1, also, it is noted that Mayle suggests for example electronic distribution of images as detailed in col 2, line 7-12, 'a character information obtaining unit for capturing a first image of the target character and obtaining character information of the target character' [col 7, line 17-19, col 8, line 1-11], Mayle teaches graphical data is provided in the form of specific formats such as JPEG or GIF format [see col 7, line 17-19], Mayle also teaches user has the ability to choose images or photos that describing character information such as photo caption,

Art Unit: 2177

message and like as detailed in col 8, line 3-5; 'a camera system for capturing plurality of images including a second image having at least the target character' [fig 1, element 14-15, col 4, line 17-18, col 5, line 19-23], camera system for capturing images corresponds to video camera and digital camera connected to the system as detailed in fig 1 that captures image(s) or photo(s), further it is noted that Mayle specifically suggests for example images and photographs are stored in a file system or store the temporary image files in a temp image database [see fig 2, element 65], that containing multiple images, therefore, first image, second image are integral part of Mayle's teaching, 'an image database communicating with said camera system for receiving and storing said plurality of images as image data' [col 5, line 18-23, line 35-46], image database corresponds to Mayle's image database, fig 2, element 66, 'an image collecting unit for selecting images including said second image from said image data stored in said image database by identifying the target character according to character information thus obtained for distributing the second image including the target character [col 6, line 5-44, fig 4], Mayle suggests for example selected images or portions of images based on the changed data or characteristics of data are distributed as detailed in fig 4.

10. As to Claim 2, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of claim 1. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'transmitting image data from said camera system to said image database' [see fig 1, col 7, line 14-20].

Art Unit: 2177

11. As to Claim 3, 46, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of claim 1. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'image selecting terminal showing the images collected by said image collecting unit to a user and prompting the user to select images' [col 7, line 21-27 col 7, line 66-67, col 8, line 1-11].

12. As to Claim 4, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of claim 3. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'capturing an image of the user who is to select images' [col 5, line 46-52].

13. As to Claim 5, 48-49 the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of Claim 4. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'verifying the user who is to select images based on the character information' [col 5, line 7-16, line 44-49].

14. As to Claim 6, 47, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of claim 3. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'image selecting terminal distributes the image data of said images selected by the user' [col 8, line 1-8].

15. As to Claim 7-8, 44, 50, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of Claim 1. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'outputting unit outputting the image data of said images collected by said image collecting unit' [see fig 1, element 13, col 4, line 17].

16. As to Claim 9, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of Claim 7. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'image selecting terminal showing images collected by said image collecting unit to a user and prompting the user to select images from said collected images, wherein said image selecting terminal transmits to said outputting unit image selection information representing which images are selected by the user' [see fig 10, col 8, line 35-42].

17. As to Claim 10, 76, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of Claim 7. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'outputting unit includes at least one of a printer, a CD-R recorder, an MD recorder, a web server for distributing the collected images via the Internet, means for sending E-mail with the collected images attached' [col 7, line 21-28, col 8, line 56-63, fig 1], predetermined URL [col 10, line 46-50], Mayle specifically suggests for example using world wise web for communicating with user PC to servers.

18. As to Claim 11, 53-54, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of Claim 1. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'database includes data about at least one of a facial characteristic, body characteristic, and characteristic of wearing appeal of target character' [see fig fig 11, 13, 17, element 601], Mayle specifically directed to a photo that has facial, body, wearing appeal characteristics, also see figs 12-17.

Art Unit: 2177

19. As to Claim 12-14, 20-21,24, 37, 45,51,57, 61,67, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of Claim 1. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'camera system includes a plurality of cameras located within a predetermined area' [see fig 1, col 7, line 14-16], plurality of cameras corresponds to Mayle's video camera element 14, digital camera element 15 as detailed in fig 1.

20. As to Claim 16,55, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection of Claim 1. In addition, Mayle disclosed 'updates previously obtained character information with newly obtained character information for the target character' [col 6, line 39-44].

21. As to Claim 25, 65, Mayle disclosed 'image collecting unit saves only images data with the target character to said image database' [see fig 2, element 66].

22. As to Claim 32,38, 72,Mayle disclosed 'camera system transmits the image data to said image database substantially every time an image is captured' [see fig 2, col 5, line 19-23, line 35-39].

23. As to Claim 40, 74,Mayle disclosed 'camera system transmits the image data to said image database when a predetermined number of images are stored in the camera system' [fig 1-2, col 5, line 19-23].

Art Unit: 2177

24. As to Claim 60,64, Mayle disclosed 'when a person is caught in a plurality of images, and when said step of identifying the target character identifies a person as the target character .....[see fig 11-17,col 8, line 65].

25. As to Claim 79, Mayle disclosed 'a character information database for storing said character information of the target character obtained in said character information obtaining unit' [col 5, line 19-22, line 35-38], 'image collecting unit said character information from said character information database for identifying the target character' [col 5, line 44-46].

26. As to Claim 81, Mayle disclosed 'character information obtaining unit obtains said character information of the target character from the first image after said camera system captures said plurality of images including said second image' [col 7, line 17-19, col 8, line 1-11], Mayle teaches graphical data is provided in the form of specific formats such as JPEG or GIF format [see col 7, line 17-19], Mayle also teaches user has the ability to choose images or photos that describing character information such as photo caption, message and like as detailed in col 8, line 3-5, fig 1, element 14-15, col 4, line 17-18, col 5, line 19-23]; 'image distributing system further comprising, an image screen unit for checking if the target character is caught in said plurality of images captured in said camera system for storing said second image' [col 7, line 15-17, line 49-51, line 55-64].

Art Unit: 2177

27. As to Claim 82-83, Mayle disclosed 'registering character information for the target character is performed after said capturing the plurality of images is performed' [col 8, line 24-29].

28. As to Claim 84, Mayle disclosed 'detecting a characteristic sound to capture an image with the target character and capturing the image with the target character when the characteristic sound is detected' [see Abstract, col 7, line 15-17], Mayle specifically teaches digital camera, video camera element 14, as best understood by the examiner video camera has the capability for recording, and playing both audio and video signals, therefore, Mayle has the ability to capture not only image, but related sound along with the image.

29. As to Claims 85-86, Mayle disclosed 'target character is a person shown in the image' [fig 4,fig 11].

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

30. Claims 18-19,35,58-59, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayle et al., [hereafter Mayle], US Patent No. 6018774 as applied to claims 1,43 above, and further in view of Acosta et al., [hereafter Acosta], US Patent No. 6166729

31. As to Claims 18-19,58-59 Mayle disclosed 'camera system at least one camera [see fig 1], mobile camera corresponds to Mayle's fig 1 element 14-15 because it is portable to carry any place, also it may be connected to the system as suggested in fig 1, further Mayle also suggests for example communicating over network such as world wide web or Internet for exchanging electronic information [see col 1, line 53-55]. Mayle does not specifically teach 'wireless transmitter'. On the other hand, Acosta disclosed 'wireless transmitter' [see fig 1].

Art Unit: 2177

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention to incorporate the teaching of Acosta et al., into creating messages including image information of Mayle et al., because both are directed to creating, capturing image information and transmitting over a network, more specifically Mayle is directed to creation of an image display on a electronic post card and sending an E-mail over a internet [see fig 1-2, Abstract], while Acosta is directed to remote digital image viewing system, more specifically viewing digital images of remote locations [see fig 1-2, Abstract] via wireless network to world wise web as detailed in fig 1, and both Mayle, Acosta are directed to digital image capturing, viewing, both are directed to sending and receiving over internet and are from same field of endeavor.

One of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Mayle et al., reference, more specifically modifying Mayle's fig 1 to incorporate the wireless network of Acosta's fig 1, element 14 because that would have allowed users of Mayle's creating messages including image information to communicate over wireless communications, thus improving speedy and efficient protocol and operations as suggested by Acosta [see Abstract, fig 1, col 2, line 61-67, col 2, line 1-2]

Art Unit: 2177

32. Claims 15,17,26,22-23,27-28,33-34,36,39,41,52,56,62, 66,68-69,71,73,75, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayle et al., [hereafter Mayle], US Patent No. 6018774, in view of Kuno, US Patent No. 6567121.

33. As to Claim 15, 22-23,52,62, Mayle teaches a system which including 'character information obtaining unit has a plurality of cameras for capturing character information' [see fig 1, col 7, line 14-16], 'said character information obtaining unit imports a plurality of images of the target character captured from plurality of cameras' [col 8, line 35-42], however it is noted that Mayle does not specifically teach 'different angles by a respective one of said plurality of cameras'. On the other hand, Kuno disclosed 'different angles by a respective one of said plurality of cameras' [col 1, line 47-49, col 3, line 54-62, col 4, line 16-19], Kuno specifically suggests various image sensing time and angle values and stored in the external storage device as detailed in fig 2.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention to incorporate the teachings of Kuno into creating messages including image information of Mayle et al., because both are directed to capturing images, more specifically Mayle is directed to creation of an image display and attached on a electronic post card and sending an E-mail over a internet [see fig 1-2, Abstract], while Kuno is directed to camera server, camera client control method and storage, more specifically sharing image information, search image information on a network having automatic camera image sensing at various angles as detailed in Abstract, fig 2.

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention to modify Mayle's reference to incorporate the teachings of automatic camera image sensing sequence that including various angles of image with respect to time because that would have allowed users of Mayle's creating message including image information effectively control and communicate various images with specified angle of image and time over the network [see col 8, line 38-45], thus improving quality of searching various images and reliability of the system.

34. As to Claims 17,26,33-34,56,66, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection, in addition, Kuno disclosed 'character information includes a registration of data of refusal to be imaged by a person, and said image collecting unit does not collect images when at least one character in an image is a person who refuses to be imaged' [col 4, line 41-50, line 63-67, col 5, line 1-11].

35. As to Claim 23, 63 the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection, in addition, Kuno specifically teaches 'different time periods' [see fig 2]

36. As to Claims 27,36,68, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection, in addition, Kuno specifically teaches 'timing detecting unit for detecting a timing to capture an image with the target character' [see fig 4, col 4, line 34-39], 'camera system captures said plurality of images with the target character when said

Art Unit: 2177

timing detecting unit detects said timing for capturing said plurality of images' [col 3, line 54-61].

37. As to Claims 28,69, 71, the limitation of this claim has been noted in the above rejection, in addition, Kuno specifically teaches 'timing detecting unit detects, based on position information about plurality of characters, said timing for capturing an image when said plurality of characters are at a predetermined position' [fig 2,4, col 4, line 34-39], Kuno specifically teaches for example detecting various image data with respective to image sensing date, sensing angle information that are stored as detailed in col 4, line 34-39.

38. As to Claim 39,41,73, 75, Kuno teaches a system which including 'image database substantially at predetermined time intervals' [see col 6, line 26-30, fig 2, fig 12, element 1104.

39. Claims 29-31,35, 42,70, 77, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayle et al., [hereafter Mayle], US Patent No. 6018774, Acosta et al., [hereafter Acosta], US Patent No. 6166729 as applied above Claims 1,43, and further in view of Kuno, US Patent No. 6567121.

40. As to Claims 29-31, 35,70, Mayle, Acosta teaches a system which including 'image distributing system' [see Mayle: fig 1, Acosta: fig 1], Acosta teaches 'prompting a person in a predetermined area to carry a transmitter for transmitting radio waves, receiving the radio waves, receiver based on the radio waves transmitted from said transmitter' [see fig 1, col 1, line 39-47, col 5, line 11-14]. However, it is noted that both Mayle, Acosta do not specifically teach 'timing detecting unit, detects said timing for capturing an image', although both Mayle and Acosta do teaches capturing images [see Mayle: Abstract, Acosta: Abstract]. On the other hand Kuno disclosed "timing detecting unit, detects said timing for capturing an image' [fig 2,fig 4, col 34-39].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention to incorporate the teachings of Kuno into creating messages including image information of Mayle et al., digital image viewing system of Acosta et al because all are directed to capturing images, more specifically Mayle is directed to creation of an image display and attached on a electronic post card and sending an E-mail over a internet [see fig 1-2, Abstract], Acosta is directed to remote digital image viewing system, more specifically viewing digital images of remote locations [see fig 1-2,

Art Unit: 2177

Abstract] via wireless network to world wise web as detailed in fig 1, while Kuno is directed to camera server, camera client control method and storage, more specifically sharing image information, search image information on a network having automatic camera image sensing at various angles as detailed in Abstract, fig 2. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention to combine the references of Kuno with Mayle, Acosta because that would have allowed users of Mayle, Acosta to control image information effectively further communicate various images with specified angle of image and time over the network [see Kuno: col 8, line 38-45], thus improving quality of searching various images and reliability of the system.

41. As to Claim 30, Acosta disclosed 'transmitter includes one of an ID card and cellular phone' [col 1, line 39-41, col 5, line 11-13]

42. As to Claim 31,35, Acosta disclosed 'radio waves transmitted and received between said transmitter and said receiver include the character information' [fig 1, col 5, line 10-13].

43. As to Claim 42, 77, Kuno disclosed 'the system is structured and arranged in an amusement part' [col 1, line 13-19].

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed on 3/5/2003 with respect to Claims 1-86 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive, for examiner's response, see discussion below:

At page 24, Claims 1-14,16,20,21,24,25,32,37-38,43-51,53-55,57,60-61,64-65,67,72,74,76,78, applicant argues "Mayle does not disclose or even remotely suggest at least the features of the character information obtaining unit or the image collecting unit of the claimed combination.

As to the above argument, examiner disagree with the applicant because firstly Mayle is directed to creating messages that including image information, more specifically, Mayle clearly teaches a) photo file or image file b) the processing or the feature that including filtering, color correcting, adding borders, motifs, visual effects and like that corresponds to character information related to images [see col 2, line 65-67, col 3, line 1-2; secondly, Mayle teaches graphical data ie., images and photographs are stored in a file system or database , further created temporary directory for manipulation [see col 5, line 19-23]; Thirdly Mayle teaches image collecting unit corresponds to image database as detailed in fig 2, element 65 containing multiple images, therefore, first image, second image are integral part of Mayler's teaching. Examiner applies above discussed arguments to independent Claims 43 and 78.

Art Unit: 2177

The new Claims 79-86 have been rejected under 102 as clearly anticipated by Mayler and are rejected as set forth therein above.

Examiner also applies above discussed arguments to other dependent claims as listed below:

Claims 18-19, 35, 58-59, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayle et al., [hereafter Mayle], US Patent No. 6018774 as applied to claims 1,43 above, and further in view of Acosta et al., [hereafter Acosta], US Patent No. 6166729

Claims 15, 17, 26, 22-23, 27-28, 33-34, 36, 39, 41, 52, 56, 62, 66, 68-69, 71, 73, 75, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayle et al., [hereafter Mayle], US Patent No. 6018774, in view of Kuno, US Patent No. 6567121.

Claims 29-31, 35, 42, 70, 77, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayle et al., [hereafter Mayle], US Patent No. 6018774, Acosta et al., [hereafter Acosta], US Patent No. 6166729 as applied above Claims 1,43, and further in view of Kuno, US Patent No. 6567121.

***Conclusion***

**The prior art made of record**

- a. US Patent No. 6018774
- b. US Patent No. 6166729
- c. US Patent No. 6567121

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure

- d. US Patent No. 6538689
- e. US Patent No. 5675358
- f. US Patent No. 6359643
- g. US Patent No. 6249316
- h. US Patent No. 6313875
- i. US Patent No. 6035323
- j. US Patent No. 6064398
- k. US Patent No. 6260021
- l. US Patent No. 5568406
- m. US Patent No. 6636259
- n. Rainer et al., Capturing interactions in meetings with omnidirectional cameras 8 pages
- o. US Patent No. 6608650

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Srirama Channavajjala whose telephone number is (703) 308-8538. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Eastern Time. The TC2100's Customer Service number is (703) 306-5631.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene, can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone numbers for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

sc *[Signature]*  
Patent Examiner.  
November 25, 2003.